



THE SPOONBILL

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HOUSTON, TEXAS Randy Pinkston, Editor

COMING EVENTS

- Thursday
December 2 OG Regular Meeting at Bayou Manor auditorium, 4141 S. Braeswood Blvd., 7:30 PM. Ben Feltner will present a seminar program on bird identification problems on the Upper Texas Coast. The program will be very detailed and should prove helpful just before Christmas Bird Counts.
- Friday
December 3 Clearing House deadline for observations for November. Please send early, and include your numbers and locations with your lists of species.
- Saturday
December 18 HOUSTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. This count is the oldest in our area by a long shot, and it's the official CEC of the OG. If you overlook last year, it should stand out as always being one of the nation's highest in both species and participants. Come and help out! Call Dave Dauphin at 383-3955 or your last year's area leader.
- Sunday
December 19 FREEPORT CHRISTMAS COUNT. This is the premier count in North America, the only one to average in excess of 200 species over the last 10 years. Participants should contact respective area leaders or Jim Morgan (461-3080).
- Monday
December 20 BUFFALO BAYOU CHRISTMAS COUNT. Come and help out on the only count that is really in Houston. Call Randy Pinkston at 667-1334 if you are interested, or meet me in the parking lot of the Rice Supermarket on the corner of San Felipe and Post Oak Lane at 6:00 AM the morning of the count.
- Tuesday
December 21 ATWATER PRAIRIE CHICKEN NWR CHRISTMAS COUNT. Details to be announced later.
- Wednesday
December 22 BOLIVAR PENINSULA CHRISTMAS COUNT. For details contact Dr. Bill Graber, 1340 Audubon Pl., Beaumont, TX 77706.
- Wednesday
December 22 ARMAND BAYOU CHRISTMAS COUNT. This is a new count this year which deserves the support of our area birders. Come and help out. Contact Ms. Stennie Meadours (3110 Hamilton, LaPorte, TX 77571; ph. 471-6254) or George Regmund at Armand Bayou Nature Center.
- Sunday
December 26 GALVESTON CHRISTMAS COUNT. This will be the fifth anniversary of the re-vitalized Galveston Count. Previous years counts have totaled from 153 to 171 species. Last year 35 participants sighted 162 species. After count, evening festivities will be held at Hills' Pier 19 seafood restaurant on Galveston Island. Call Bruce Halstead at 229-3681 (work) or 945-3039 (home) if you wish to participate.
- Sunday
January 2,
1983 CYPRESS CREEK CHRISTMAS COUNT. Contact Fred Collins if you wish to participate.

OG FIELD TRIP TO BOLIVAR FLATS AND THE COAST

by Jim Morgan

Following the shorebird seminar given by Ted Eubanks, Jr. on October 7 at the OG meeting, some OG members took to the field on October 9 to put the newly found knowledge to work. Upon arrival at the "flats" an immature Peregrine Falcon came off the beach and put on a good show before departing. When we directed our attention to shorebirds we found just about all the expected species, plus numerous waders, gulls and terns. Leaving the flats we went to "Bob's Bait Camp Road" where more shorebirds were to be seen. All in all, we found about 25 species of shorebirds.

After spending the morning on shorebirds a few in the group followed me on to High Island where we found 12 species of warblers including a UTC fourth fall record of Cape May Warbler. While enroute to Anahuac NWR we spotted an Osprey with prey on Hwy 124. At Anahuac NWR the most noteworthy sighting was an immature male Vermilion Flycatcher. We finished up at and around White Park watching such woodland species as Red-headed Woodpecker and Pine Warblers. On the day 116 species were seen, which wasn't too shabby considering it was a hot "weatherless" day.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The Canadian Wildlife Service, Ontario Region, is continuing its program of color-marking Common Terns at two colonies in the lower Great Lakes to determine their post-breeding dispersal, migration routes and winter range.

In 1981 adults were marked with orange wing-tags and chicks with pink tags. Many of the adult tagged birds returned to their colonies in 1982 still carrying their tags. The tagged birds appeared fit and nested normally. Most tags were still clearly legible and showed little wear.

In 1982 bright blue wing tags (with black lettering) were put on adult Common Terns and black tags (with yellow lettering) on chicks just prior to fledging. Tags were put on both wings of all birds. All tags have combinations of letters and numbers (the two tags on any bird have the same combination). When you observe a tagged tern would you please report the date, location, color of the tag, and, if possible, the number/letter combination to: BANDING OFFICE, CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE, HEADQUARTERS, OTTAWA, ONTARIO, CANADA, K1A 0E7. All reports will be acknowledged.

MINUTES OF THE OG MEETING, OCT. 7, 1982

Ted Eubanks, new chairman of the OG, opened the meeting and noted there would be no treasurer's report due to the absence of the treasurer. He also dismissed the reading of the minutes, to which there were no objections.

Announcements:

Ted: Jim Morgan is to be the new field trip chairman and Ron Braun is the new program chairman.

Jim: The November field trip is to the Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge, Nov. 20, led by Ben Feltner. For December we will have the Christmas Counts.

Ron: We will alternate this year between seminars and programs. The curator of the Houston Zoo will give the program in Nov. In Dec. Ben Feltner will give a seminar on UTC identification in preparation for Christmas Counts.

Paul Nimmons: David Dauphin will be the Co-compiler of the Houston Christmas Count (West Chambers County Count). Call David if you want to participate on Dec. 18 Other counts: Freeport, Dec. 19; Bolivar, Dec. 22; Cypress Creek, Jan. 2; Mexico, El Naranjo, Dec. 30; Teziutlan, Jan. 2.

Fred Collins: High Island Bird Sanctuary will be dedicated Oct. 16. There is need for donations. Next payment comes at the end of the year.

(Continued on outside flap)

CLEARING HOUSE September, 1982

The Clearing House is a monthly record of bird sightings made on the Upper Texas Coast. How to read the CH: Species: Location--(how many) date, observers. Those common species which can be easily identified and are widely distributed in the UTC will also be listed, followed by the number of reports, with the lowest and highest number of individuals seen in parenthesis, i.e. (1-40). Noteworthy sightings will be underlined, capitalized, or both, according to their status. All observations reported below must be accepted by the Checklist Committee (Ben Feltner, Jim Morgan, and Noel Pettingell) before they are considered valid and included in the next checklist.

Grebe, Eared: Anahuac NWR--(1)25,PM
 Grebe, Pied-billed: 9 reports (1-55)
 Pelican, White: 6 reports (2-120)
 Cormorant, Double-crested: Bolivar--(10)25,GL; Galv--(15)26,GL; W.Harris Co--(3)26,E; (10)29,RT
 Cormorant, Olivaceous: 8 reports (1-15)
 Anhinga: Sheldon Res--(4)1,W
 Frigatebird, Magnificent: W.Galv--(1 fm.)26,BH
 Heron, Great Blue: 11 reports (1-25)
 Heron, Green: 13 reports (1-12)
 Heron, Little Blue: 5 reports (4-40)
 Egret, Cattle: 9 reports (10-600)
 Egret, Reddish: 8 reports (1-20)
 Egret, Great: 13 reports (3-75)
 Egret, Snowy: 10 reports (2-250)
 Heron, Louisiana: 11 reports (1-60)
 Night Heron, Black-crowned: 6 reports (1-6)
 Night Heron, Yellow-crowned: 8 reports (1-25)
 Bittern, Least: Bolivar--(1)11,OG
 Bittern, American: W.Galv--(1)18,H; Bolivar--(1)26,GL
 Stork, Wood: Bolivar--(1)25,GL; Blackie Tyler's Pond--(3)29,RT
 Ibis, White-faced: 9 reports (5-470)
 Ibis, White: 8 reports (4-50)
 Spoonbill, Roseate: 9 reports (1-100)
 Goose, Snow: Anahuac NWR--(15)25,GL,BH; W.Harris Co--(40)26,E; (10)29,RT..need notes
Goose, Snow (Blue): Anahuac NWR--(4)25,PM...needs notes
 Whistling Duck, Black-bellied: Warren Lake--(4)29,RT
 Duck, Mottled: 7 reports (2-52)
 Pintail, Common: W.Harris Co--(3)26,E
 Gadwall: Bolivar--(2)4,H...needs notes
 Teal, Green-winged: Anahuac NWR--(40)24,G
 Teal, Blue-winged: W.Harris Co--(2000)26,E; 4 other reports (4-1000)
 Wigeon, American: W.Harris Co--(7)26,E; Anahuac NWR--(10)24,G
 Shoveler, Northern: Anahuac NWR--(4)19,JM; W.Harris Co--(4)26,E
 Scaup, Lesser: Freeport marsh--(4)4,T
 Duck, Ruddy: Freeport marsh--(1)4,T
 MERGANSER, RED-BREASTED: Bolivar--(1)4,H...needs notes
 Vulture, Turkey: 7 reports (1-50)
 Vulture, Black: 3 reports (1)
 Kite, White-tailed: Anahuac NWR--(1)19,25,JM,BH; Galv--(2)11,18,26; Bolivar--(1)4,H; Bellaire--(1)10,14,DM
 Kite, Mississippi: High Island--(1)4,B; (3)11,CS; Lake Jackson--(1)4,T; NW Houston--(1)3,SW; SW Houston--(3)5,(1)18,PM; (7)1,(1)2,4,8,JC; Rice U--(2)3,C
 Hawk, Sharp-shinned: High Island--(1)11,CS; (1)27,GL; Bolivar--(10)25,GL; Anahuac NWR--(5)25,GL; W.Harris Co--(3)26,E; Houston--(1)17,SW; Galv--(1)29,J
 Hawk, Cooper's: Galv--(1)5,JH; Houston--(1)9,SW
 Hawk, Red-tailed: W.Harris Co--(2)26,E; Houston--(2)17,SW; (2)21,DM
 Hawk, Red-shouldered: High Island--(1)25,H,GL; 7 other reports (1-4)
 Hawk, Broad-winged: High Island--(5)4,B; (3)12,RT; Chambers Co--(5)19,JM; Galv--(1)17-19,H; Memorial area--(1,050)22,JM; Anahuac NWR--(2)25,GL,BH; Houston--(1)14,(85)23,(2)24,29,SW; (1)29,RT; (3)21,GC
 Hawk, Swainson's: Mercury Dr--(1)18,SM; Houston--(1)9,SW
 Hawk, White-tailed: W.Harris Co--(1)26,E...see notes
 Hawk, Rough-legged: Main at Fondren--(3)21,DM...see notes
 Eagle, Bald: Maner Lake--(1 ad.)21, Virginia Taroni...needs notes

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Hawk, Marsh: Anahuac NWR--(1)25, GL, BH; W. Harris Co--(2)26, E; Bolivar--(1)24, G; Galv--(1)26, BH
Falcon, Peregrine: Bolivar--(1 prob.)11, OG; W. Harris Co--(2)26, E; McFaddin Ranch--(1)27, GL
Merlin: Bolivar--(2)25, GL; High Island--(1)26, GL; Sea Rim--(1)27, GL; Mercury Dr--(1)18, SM
Kestrel, American: 12 reports (1-25)
Bobwhite: 3 reports (2-20)
Pheasant, Ring-necked: Anahuac NWR--(1)25, PM
Rail, King: 8 reports (1-8)
Rail, Clapper: 11 reports (1-15)
Sora: W. Harris Co--(5)26, E
Gallinule, Purple: Anahuac NWR--(2)25, GL; (1)24, G
Gallinule, Common: 4 reports (2-4)
Coot, American: 6 reports (1-60)
Oystercatcher, American: 8 reports (1-12)
Plover, Semipalmated: 7 reports (2-130)
Plover, Piping: 6 reports (2-360)
Plover, Snowy: 6 reports from Bolivar Flats (1-10)
Plover, Wilson's: 7 reports (1-35)
Killdeer: 13 reports (2-275)
Plover, American Golden: Bolivar--(1)25, GL...even though not required, notes would be good on this sighting
Plover, Black-bellied: 9 reports (1-26)
Turnstone, Ruddy: 6 reports (2-20)
Snipe, Common: W. Harris Co--(1)26, E
Curlew, Long-billed: 8 reports (2-15)
Whimbrel: Bolivar--(3)4, B, H; (2)2, OG
Sandpiper, Upland: Anahuac NWR--(5)4, B; (1)19, JM; Braes Bayou--(1)14, DM; Bolivar--(1)11, OG, CS; W. Galv--(1)18, H
Sandpiper, Spotted: 6 reports (1-6)
Sandpiper, Solitary: Anahuac NWR--(1)19, JM; Mercury Dr--(5)18, SM
Willet: 10 reports (2-200)
Yellowlegs, Greater: 11 reports (1-125)
Yellowlegs, Lesser: 12 reports (3-400)
Knot, Red: Bolivar--(6)19, JM; (10)11, OG, CS; (1)4, H; (7)12, RT
Sandpiper, Pectoral: Anahuac NWR--(15)4, B; (2)19, JM; W. Harris Co--(4)26, E; Bolivar--(6)11, CS; (4)18, PV; High Island--(75)24, G
Sandpiper, Baird's: Anahuac NWR--(1)4, B; Bolivar--(5)11, CS; W. Galv--(8)29, J
Sandpiper, Least: 8 reports (22-1000)
Dunlin: Bolivar--(1)19, JM; (2)11, CS; (75)4, H; Anahuac NWR--(1)19, JM
Dowitcher, Short-billed: 8 reports (1-200)
Dowitcher, Long-billed: 9 reports (1-750)
Dowitcher species: 2 reports (50-700)
Sandpiper, Stilt: Anahuac NWR--(6)4, B; Bolivar--(8)11, CS; (1)24, G; W. Harris Co--(40)26, E; Galv--(1)24, G
Sandpiper, Semipalmated: 5 reports (2-200)
Sandpiper, Western: 7 reports (6-2000)
Sandpiper, Buff-breasted: High Island--(10)11, CS; (2)24, G; Bolivar--(2)4, H; W. Harris Co--(5)26, E
Godwit, Marbled: Anahuac NWR--(3)24, G; 8 other reports (2-31)
Sanderling: 6 reports (20-775)
Avocet, American: 7 reports (1-40)
Stilt, Black-necked: 9 reports (5-155)
Phalarope, Wilson's: Galv--(300)4, B; (5)11, CS; (13)18, PV; W. Harris Co--(4)26, E
PHALAROPE, NORTHERN: Galv--(1)4, Jim Morgan, Bob Behrstock...see notes
Gull, Herring: 4 reports (1-15)
Gull, Ring-billed: 6 reports (2-30)
Gull, Laughing: 8 reports (23-13,000)
Tern, Gull-billed: 5 reports (1-8)
Tern, Forster's: 9 reports (1-30)
Tern, Common: 5 reports from Bolivar (2-20)
Tern, Least: 6 reports (1-300)
Tern, Royal: 7 reports (5-2500)
Tern, Sandwich: 6 reports (3-300)
Tern, Caspian: 5 reports (1-35)
Tern, Black: 9 reports (10-900)
Skimmer, Black: 6 reports (4-950)

Dove, Rock: 7 reports (8-50)
 Dove, White-winged: 2 reports from Galv (3,20)
 Dove, Mourning: 14 reports (2-230)
 Dove, Ground: Galv. golf course--(1)18,W
 Dove, Inca: 11 reports (1-50)
 Parakeet, Monk: Southside Place--(2)5,JC
 Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: 10 reports (1-2)
 Ani, Groove-billed: Bolivar--(3)26,GL; Kempner Park--(2)18,(1)19,H; Anahuac NWR--
 (2)19,JM; Galv--(1)29,J; Armand Bayou--(1)30, George Regmund
 Owl, Barn: Bolivar--(1)19,25,JM,BH; W.Harris Co--(1)26,E; Galv--(1)25,BH
 Owl, Screech: Bolivar--(1)25,BH
 Owl, Great Horned: W.Harris Co--(1)26,E
 Owl, Barred: W.Harris Co--(1-2)all month,V; Bellaire--(1)18-30,DM
 Chuck-will's-widow: High Island & Bolivar--(20)4,B,PV; Bayou--(3)26,GL; High
 Island--(1)25,BH; White Oak Bayou--(1)4,WC
 Whip-poor-will: Galv--(1)18,H; Bolivar--(1)25,26,GL
 Nighthawk, Common: 10 reports (1-75)
 NIGHTHAWK, LESSER: NW Houston--(1)21,SW...see notes
 Swift, Chimney: W.Harris Co--(1,750)26,E; 11 other reports (5-500)
 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: 22 reports (1-25)
 Hummingbird, Rufous: Houston yards--(1)16-19,Ron&Marcia Braun; (1)30,WC
 Hummingbird, Blue-throated: Houston Bapt. University--(1)9,SW; (1), Celeste New-
 ton, Kitty Tardy, Gay Winn
 Kingfisher, Belted: 12 reports (1-4)
 Flicker, Common (Yellow-shafted): Bolivar--(1)25,GL; W.Harris Co--(15)26,E;
 (1)30,V; NW Houston--(1-3)all month,SW; White Oak Bayou--(1-3)all month,WC
 Woodpecker, Pileated: 6 reports (1-3)
 Woodpecker, Red-bellied: 8 reports (1-4)
 Woodpecker, Red-headed: Chambers Co--(9)19,JM; High Island--(1)1,PV; Houston--
 (1)3,18,21,SW; (1)4,18,WC
 Woodpecker, Hairy: Houston--(1)9,21,29,SW; Bellaire--(1)all month,DM
 Woodpecker, Downy: Bolivar--(1)19,JM; 8 other reports (1-3)
 Kingbird, Eastern: 23 reports (1-300)
 Kingbird, Western: Galv--(1)26,GL,BH; High Island--(1)5,GH
 Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: W.Harris Co--(235)26,E; 18 other reports (5-50)
 Flycatcher, Great Crested: 9 reports (1-10)
 Phoebe, Eastern: Houston--(1)28,SW...needs notes
 Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied: High Island--(2 by voice)4,B; (1)11,CS; (3)25,GL...
 notes submitted; Bolivar--(1 prob.)11,OG; (2)25,27,(1)26,GL; Galv--(1)18,H
 Flycatcher, Acadian: Houston--(1)3,C
 Flycatcher, Willow/Alder: High Island--(4)4,B; (1)11,CS; Bolivar--(1 by voice)19,
 JM; (1)25,GL...notes submitted
 Flycatcher, Least: Bolivar--(1)4,B; High Island--(2)11,CS; (1)24,G; W.Harris Co--
 (1)26,E; Houston--(1)17,SW...notes submitted
 Empidonax species: 12 reports (1-15)
 Peewee, Eastern: High Island & Bolivar--(5)4,B; (3)12,RT; Houston--(1)5,PM; (1)
 4,20,WC; Bolivar--(1)19,JM; (1)11,OG; (1)25,GL; Chambers Co--(1)19,JM; Galv--
 (1)11,H; (1)18,H; High Island--(4)25,H,GL; (1)1,PV; (3)24,G; San Bernard NWR--
 (2)6,PM
 Flycatcher, Olive-sided: High Island--(1)19,JM; (1)27,GL; (1)11,M; (3)24,G; (1)12,
 RT; Galv--(1)17,JH; Bolivar--(1)27,GL; Houston--(1)4,24,WC; (1)26,27,GC
 Flycatcher, Vermilion: Mercury Dr--(1)6,WC; Bolivar--(1)19,JM
 Lark, Horned: 7 reports (1-10)
 Swallow, Tree: Coast--(100)4,B; (100)19,JM; (100)24,G; W.Harris Co--(100)26,E;
 Bolivar--(500)11,OG; (8)18,PV; Anahuac NWR--(250)25,GL
 Swallow, Bank: Galv--(3)11,18,JH; W.Harris Co--(20)26,E; High Island--(9)1,PV
 Swallow, Rough-winged: Houston--(2)17,SW
 Swallow, Barn: Bolivar--(2000)11,OG,CS; 15 other reports (3-300)
 Swallow, Cliff: Bolivar--(10)11,CS; W.Harris Co--(3)26,E; High Island--(1)24,G
 Martin, Purple: NW Houston--(1)15,SW; Coast--(nc)11,M; Mercury Dr--(nc)18,SM
 Jay, Blue: 12 reports (2-15)
 Crow, Common: 11 reports (1-20)
 Chickadee, Carolina: 6 reports (2-8)
 Titmouse, Tufted: 3 reports (1-15)
 Nuthatch, Brown-headed: Tomball--(2)18,SW
 Wren, Northern House: Kempner Park--(1)24,JH; W.Harris Co--(3)26,E; White Oak
 Bayou--(1)26,WC
 Wren, Carolina: 7 reports (2-8)

- Wren, Marsh: Sea Rim--(2)27,GL
 Mockingbird, Northern: 13 reports (1-200)
 Catbird: High Island--(1)25,H; (3)24,G; Bolivar--(1)26,GL
 Thrasher, Brown: High Island--(3)4,B; (1)19,JM; (2)11,OG,CS; (10)25,H,GL; (1)18,PV;
 Bolivar--(1)19,JM; (15)25,26,GL; (8)24,G; Galv--(1)24,(4)26,JH; W.Harris Co--
 (35)26,E; (2)19,V; Houston--(25)21,SW; (2)26,WC
 Robin, American: Houston--(3)21,SW; (5)all month,GC; Pearland--(1)28,W
 Thrush, Wood: White Oak Bayou--(1)all month,WC
 Thrush, Swainson's: High Island--(1 prob.)11,OG; (1)24,G; Galv--(1)24,JH; Boli-
 var--(1)24,G; Houston--(1)27,28,GC
 Bluebird, Eastern: NW Houston--(2)9,(3)21,SW; Lake Houston--(2)1,W
 Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: 20 reports (1-35)
 Kinglet, Ruby-crowned: W.Galv--(1)18,H...needs notes; High Island--(2)25,H; Boli-
 var--(1)25(3)26,(5)27,GL; W.Harris Co--(30)26,E; White Oak Bayou--(2)26,WC
 Shrike, Loggerhead: 15 reports (1-100)
 Starling: 13 reports (1-500)
 Vireo, White-eyed: 12 reports (1-5)
 Vireo, Yellow-throated: High Island--(5)25,H; (1)24,G
 Vireo, Solitary: W.Harris Co--(1)26,E; White Oak Bayou--(1)26,WC
 Vireo, Red-eyed: High Island--(1)4,B; (5)11,OG,CS; (2)25,H,GL; (5)24,G; (2)12,RT;
 Bolivar--(1)4,B; (1)27,GL; White Park--(1)19,JM; Galv--(1)15,18,H; (1)29,J; White
 Oak Bayou--(1)26,WC
 Vireo, Philadelphia: Bolivar--(1)26,GL
 Warbler, Black-and-white: High Island--(20)4,B; (6)11,OG,CS; (3)25,H,GL; (2)1,PV;
 (1)19,PV; (4)12,RT; W.Harris Co--(4)26,E; Bolivar--(2)19,JM; (1)25,26,GL; (1)
 24,G; White Park--(1)19,JM; Houston--(1)22,RT; (1)4,(3)20,WC
 Warbler, Prothonotary: High Island--(1)4,B; (1)11,OG,CS; (2)12,RT; Bolivar--(1)4,B
 Warbler, Worm-eating: High Island--(1)11,CS; (2)25,H,GL; Bolivar--(1)27,GL
 Warbler, Golden-winged: High Island--(1 m.)24,G
 Warbler, Blue-winged: High Island--(1)11,OG,CS; W.Harris Co--(1)26,E
 Warbler, Tennessee: High Island--(1)11,OG,CS; (2)25,BH
 Warbler, Nashville: Bolivar--(3)19,JM; High Island--(1)11,CS; (1)27,GL; (1)12,RT;
 (1)5,GH...needs notes; Galv--(1)18,H; W.Harris Co--(3)26,E; White Oak Bayou--
 (1)20,25,WC
WARBLER, VIRGINIA'S: High Island--(1)11,CS; Anahuac NWR--(1)24,G...see notes
 Parula, Northern: High Island--(2)4,B; (1)1,PV; NW Houston--(1)22,SW; White Park--
 (2)19,JM; Bolivar--(1)12,RT
 Warbler, Yellow: High Island--(4)4,B; (1)11,CS; Galv--(3)29,J; Bolivar--(2)11,CS;
 White Oak Bayou--(2)21,WC
 Warbler, Magnolia: White Oak Bayou--(1)20,WC; High Island--(2)24,G
WARBLER, BLACK-THROATED BLUE: Johnson Space Center--(1)19, Bob Cade...needs notes,
 but was a male held in hand
 Warbler, Black-throated Green: High Island--(2)19,JM; (1)25,BH; White Oak Bayou--
 (1)20,26,WC; White Park--(2)19,JM; W.Harris Co--(3)26,E
 Warbler, Blackburnian: High Island--(2)4,B; (1)25,GL; Bolivar--(1)27,GL
 Warbler, Yellow-throated: White Park--(1)19,JM; High Island--(1)11,CS; W.Harris
 Co--(1)26,E
 Warbler, Chestnut-sided: High Island--(1)4,B; (1)25,H,BH; (2)24,G; White Park--
 (2)19,JM; W.Harris Co--(1)26,E
 Warbler, Pine: White Mem.Park--(10)19,JM
 Warbler, Prairie: Galv--(1)1,JH
 Ovenbird: High Island--(1)19,JM; (1)24,G; (1)5,GH; W.Harris Co--(1)26,E
 Waterthrush, Northern: High Island--(5)4,B; (1)11,CS; (1)1,PV; W.Harris Co--(1)26,E;
 White Oak Bayou--(1)4,18-21,WC
 Warbler, Kentucky: High Island--(2)4,B; (1)11,CS
 Warbler, Mourning: Yard--(1)2,Avis Brister; Bolivar--(2)19,JM; High Island--
 (1)25,GL
 Yellowthroat, Common: 8 reports (1-20)
 Chat, Yellow-breasted: High Island & Bolivar--(12)4,B; (7)19,JM; Bolivar--(1)27,GL;
 High Island--(1)1,18,PV; (1)24,G; Houston--(1)19-26,WC; (1)3,C
 Warbler, Hooded: Bolivar--(1)4,B; (3)26,GL; High Island--(1)12,RT
 Warbler, Wilson's: High Island & Bolivar--(17)4,B; (1)25,BH; Bolivar--(8)19,JM;
 (4)26,GL; High Island--(1)11,CS; W.Harris Co--(10)26,E; Anahuac NWR--(1)11,M;
 Tomball--(1)18,SW; Houston--(3)23,PV; (1)6,18-26,(2)21,(3)25,WC
 Warbler, Canada: High Island & Bolivar--(25)4,B; High Island--(2)19,JM; (5)11,
 OG,CS; (30)1,(3)18,PV; (5)12,RT; San Bernard River--(4)6,PM; Houston--(1)6,RT;
 (1)4,18,WC
 Redstart, American: High Island--(5)4,B; (1)11,CS; (10)25,H,GL; (2)1,PV; (1)12,RT

Bolivar--(5)26,GL; W.Harris Co--(1)26,E; Anahuac NWR--(1)24,G; White Oak Bayou--(1)26,WC
 Sparrow, House: 10 reports (20-200)
 Meadowlark, Eastern: 8 reports (1-20)
 Blackbird, Yellow-headed: High Island--(2)11,OG...see notes; Anahuac NWR--(1fm.)24,G; Galv--(3)29,J
 Blackbird, Red-winged: Chambers & Galv. Co--(100,000)4,B; W.Harris Co--(12,000)26,E; 6 other reports (4-500)
 Oriole, Orchard: Galv--(50)4,H; 4 other reports (1-10)
 Oriole, Northern (Baltimore): High Island--(15)4,B; (2)25,H; (8)18,PV; (1)24,G; W.Harris Co--(2)26,E; Bolivar--(15)19,JM; Chambers Co--(10)19,JM; Galv--(3)18,H; NW Houston--(1)21,SW; White Oak Bayou--(2-7)4-24,WC
 Grackle, Boat-tailed: Maner Lake--(2)11,CS; 5 other reports (20-75)
 Grackle, Great-tailed: 10 reports (5-400)
 Grackle, Common: 9 reports (1-300)
 Cowbird, Brown-headed: 7 reports (2-2500)
 Tanager, Western: Bolivar--(2)11,OG...see notes
 Tanager, Scarlet: High Island--(2)25,H; (1)24,G...notes submitted; Galv--(1)26,GL
 Tanager, Summer: Bolivar--(1)19,JM; NW Houston--(2)22, SW; High Island--(2)11,OG,CS; (2)25,GL; (4)12,RT; W.Harris Co--(1-2)2,7,8,11,V
 Cardinal: 16 reports (1-30)
 GROSBEAK, BLACK-HEADED: W.Galv--(1)29,J...see notes
 Grosbeak, Blue: High Island--(1)11,CS; (4)1,PV; (1)24,G; W.Harris Co--(4)26,E; White Oak Bayou--(2)21, (1)25,WC
 Bunting, Indigo: Bolivar--(5)25,GL; High Island--(10)25,GL; (1)24,G; W.Harris Co--(2)26,E; NW Houston--(15)22,SW; White Oak Bayou--(1)21,26,WC
 Dickcissel: 7 reports (1-7)
 Sparrow, Seaside: 6 reports (1-15)
 Sparrow, Lark: Galv--(2)26,GL

Clearing House Contributors - September, 1982: B--Jim Morgan, Bob Behrstock, Emory Froelich, Linda Walsh; BH--Bob Honig; C--Mary & Janice Bourgeois; CS--Chuck Sexton; DM--David Marrack; E--Jim Morgan, Ted Eubanks; G--Greg Lasley; GC--Glenn Cureton; GH--George Howe; H--John & Jane Hamilton, Allen Mueller; J--Jane Hamilton, Martha Micks, Faye Humphrey, Carolyn Killian; JC--Jerry Caraviotis; JH--John & Jane Hamilton; JM--Jim Morgan; M--Stennie Meadors, Fred Dalbey; OG--Ornithology Group field trip; PM--Peggy Milstead; PV--Peter Vennema; RT--Robert Thacker; SM--Stennie Meadors, Fred Dalbey, Susan Ripley; SW--Steve Williams; T--Tom Taroni, Jim Renfro; V--Dick & Vesta Eshbaugh; W--Bob & Edith Willman; WC--Wesley Cureton

Field Notes - September 1982:

Broad-winged hawk (dark phase): In the Double Bayou area I saw a small, very dark buteo soar out over the road for about 15 seconds. Its size and shape immediately said broadwing, but the bird was very, very dark. It was mainly black above and below with a few white feathers in the breast and white barring on the outer tips of the primaries and secondaries. The tail appeared mainly dark, with no noticeable barring. I eliminated the dark redtails by color, size, shape and tail color. Similarly the tail, size and shape were wrong for a Harlan's hawk. Size and lack of white breast should eliminate white-tailed hawk. The Bird Life of Texas describes this phase almost exactly as I saw it. Ben Feltner said that both he and David Wolf have seen a dark broadwing, but they must be extremely rare. Seen in excellent light with binocs as close as 40 meters.

--Jim Morgan

White-tailed hawk: immature bird. Black on head, back, wings and belly. Mainly white breast. When preening, showed rufous on shoulders. While bird was perched, the folded wings extended beyond tail, the latter having much white in it already. Seen by both observers in excellent light for 5 minutes at a distance of 150 meters with binocs and scopes. Both observers are familiar with the immature plumage.

--Jim Morgan

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: in a group of hawks, mostly broadwings. One typical light phase with dark abdominal band and black and white tail. Two were melanistic, as dark a hawk as I have seen. Presumed juveniles. Flight pattern and shape like the typical one they circled with at about 50 ft., repeatedly crossing over me. Very good late afternoon sun, which showed up the streaking on the breast and the indistinct band on the tail. Top of tail also almost no color contrast, likewise

underside of inner and outer areas of wing. Identity based on fine point correspondence in shape and flight with associates and faintly discernible darker tail band. Not a Swainson's because of no terminal white band and no dihedral on glide, as well as wrong flight pattern and shape.

--David Marrack

Baird's sandpiper: found in fresh-water pond. Rusty brown back and black legs and beak. Appeared long and slim--pointed at both ends. When flying, showed dark central diamond on tail. We were 30-40 ft. from bird.

--Jane Hamilton

NORTHERN PHALAROPE: among over 300 Wilson's phalaropes on a pond behind the seawall at Galveston. Bird had a black crown and hindneck and blackish back with whitish streaks. Face and front and sides of neck were pure white except for a black patch through and behind the eye. Had a noticeably shorter and stouter neck and markedly shorter bill than nearby Wilson's phalaropes. Those of the Wilson's were about 50% longer than this bird's. In flight the northern showed a bold white wing stripe, and the black on the back extended through the rump and onto the tail, leaving two white oval patches at the sides of the rump. Located at 4:45 p.m. and observed with binocs and scopes at 75-300 meters for 15 minutes. Easily relocated at 5:30. Wilson's has no wing stripe and has all-white rump and tail, plus longer neck and bill. Red phalarope has a heavier, usually two-toned bill, a lighter unstreaked back, and is not as sharply marked in basic plumage. Subsequently seen by many observers.

--Jim Morgan & Bob Behrstock

LESSER NIGHTHAWK: my first UTC observation. While taking an early morning walk, I heard a strange bird call overhead. I looked up and saw a nighthawk flying low over the street. It made a chirping sound, somewhat like a toad or cricket, but different from both. It was a male, I believe, because the wing spots looked white. I had no binoculars, but the light was good. Flew around the area for 1-1/2 minutes, calling repeatedly. Initially seen from about 15 ft.

--Steve Williams

BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: observed from 15 ft. for 15 seconds while feeding on trumpet vine flowers behind Sharp Gymnasium at Houston Baptist University. No binoculars but excellent light. Twice the length and more than twice the bulk of a female rubythroat type feeding at the same place. Large white areas on each corner of the tail and a white eyeline. Light bluish throat slightly lighter than the grayish underparts. I am familiar with this species from many observations in Southeast Arizona in May, 1982, and in West Texas, and have no doubt as to its identity. Despite four or more trips to the spot daily, the bird had not reappeared as of Sept. 13.

--Steve Williams

BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD: On Sept. 13 and 14, between 9 and 11 a.m., Kitty Tardy, Gay Winn and I observed a female or immature bluethroat working the trumpet vines and wild morning glories growing on the fence near the HBU gymnasium. We saw the bird in good light and noted the large size, large white spots on a dark tail, and facial pattern. The face seemed more consistent with Peterson's female in Birds of Texas. The white was concentrated behind the eye, as opposed to Singer's rendition, which shows a white line extending above and over the front of the eye. We viewed the bird at approx. 15-minute intervals with 7x35 wide-angle binoculars. The three of us are novices; this sighting was a lifer for us. However, two of us have birded with Elaine Robinson Adams for the past year, and we try to be very careful in our observations.

--Celeste Newton

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER: located in first long row of salt cedars east of High Island on Hwy. 87 about noon. An actively feeding dull-colored warbler in a small flock of migrants. In plain view at very close range in good diffuse light for only 8-10 seconds. Seen briefly from a full side view. Bird then turned 3/4 away from me, tilted up and down a few times, and flew. I could not relocate it despite an hour of trying. A typically-sized Vermivora-type warbler with gray head, back, wings and tail. No wingbars. Narrow russet brown crown patch. Narrow complete whitish eyering. Underparts whitish with grayish on sides of breast. Although I saw no yellow wash on the breast, my view of the breast was very brief and only from the side. Bright, sharply delineated yellow rump and undertail coverts were

conspicuous when bird turned away and tilted up and down. Rump slightly darker than undertail coverts. No vocalization. Nashville eliminated by this bird's whitish throat and breast and gray upperparts. Colima eliminated by this bird's small size, lack of dusky wash across breast, and bright yellow tail coverts. However, my views were so brief that I can eliminate Colima with only 90% confidence.

--Chuck Sexton

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER: About 6 p.m. I was pishing for warblers on the road at the SW corner of the slough adjacent to Shoveler Pond. A warbler larger than a yellowthroat appeared on the edge of a bush about 20 ft. ahead. I noticed right away a distinct yellow rump, but knew it was not a yellow-rumped because the bird was very light in color. No wingbars. I distinctly noticed a white throat and a band of yellow across the breast. Looking through Birds of North America, I found the Virginia's warbler, esp. the immature, most accurately matched this bird. In sum, the bird was light gray on back and head, had no eyestripe or wingbars, and had a yellow rump, white throat, and yellow band across the breast. 7x35 binocs.

--Linda Graetz

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER: I saw what was probably the same bird for 1-2 seconds. View from rear and side. Bright lemon yellow upper and undertail coverts. The yellow above was contrasting, not continuous, with back color. Undertail coverts contrasted with snow white belly, rather sharply demarcated. Back and tail color not noted, prob. brown or gray. General impression was of a bird a bit larger and dumpier than a common yellowthroat. Good light, 25 ft., 8x44 binocs.

--Bob Behrstock

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: male (fairly bright yellow on face and upper chest, white wing patch) perched beside great-tailed grackle on partly submerged fence. When it flew to a clump of emergent rush-type vegetation, it was joined by a female, which had no wing patch and was duller on face and upper chest. Seen about 10:45 a.m. by seven observers at small pond a little east of High Island. Apparently earliest fall sighting.

--Bob Behrstock

WESTERN TANAGER: seen by OG field trip about 1:30 p.m. in oleanders along driveway at Mrs. Johnson's on Bolivar. A strongly patterned tanager. Underparts unstreaked and lemon yellow from the pale-colored bill to the blackish tail. Wings jet black except for one thick lemon yellow bar. Upperparts yellow except for an orange wash across the face and forecrown. I am very familiar with the species as it nested behind my house in California, and I've seen it in several other countries. At least seven saw the bird. An early fall record.

--Bob Behrstock

WESTERN TANAGER: a female seen accompanying the male already reported at Mrs. Johnson's. The white wing bar was easily seen. A female summer tanager in the vicinity made an interesting comparison.

--Chuck Berthoud

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: We identified the bird as a female grosbeak because of its size and beak. It differed from the rose-breasted female in that it had a very rusty breast all the way up to the chin with very faint streaking on the sides. We were within 25-30 ft. of the tree where it was perched.

--Jane Hamilton

Minutes cont. ...

Maty Ann Chapman: Peregrine seminar to be Oct. 23-24, led by John Tveten.

Ellen Red: World Wildlife Seminar at Rice University Hammond Hall, 9:00 a.m. Nov. 5.

Ted suggested that the Spoonbill would be greatly improved if it were printed. This would require raising the OG dues. There was much discussion. David Dauphin made a motion that the OG dues be raised to six dollars a year for members and nine dollars a year for non-member subscribers. The motion was seconded. Don Richardson made an ammendment that we raise the dues for a one year trial period. It was seconded, but did not pass. Ted pointed out that printing the Spoonbill would speed up the publishing process, and the OG news and Clearing House might again arrive about the fifteenth of the month. The motion was passed, effective January 1, 1983.

Ted Eubanks gave a very intensive seminar on Shore Bird Habitat of the UTC. He furnished everyone with a complete list of shorebirds, types of habitats and location of habitats on the UTC. He also had some excellent slides.

Ellen Red, Secretary

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Linda Walsh, 702 Marshall, Houston 77006 528-0139

Annual Membership dues: \$7.00 (ONC-\$5.00, OG-\$2.00)

Annual Subscriptions: \$4.00

Send material for THE SPOONBILL by 25th of month to:

Randy Pinkston, 5447 Kuldell, Houston 77096 667-1334

Send bird records for Clearing House before 3rd of month to:

Wesley Cureton, 6623 Grovewood, Houston 77008 862-5255

Send requests for OG information, checklists, maps to:

Maxine Davis, 10602 Cedarhurst, Houston 77096 723-8559